

South Dakota National Guard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Guard Soldiers host “Bring a Buddy to Drill” day

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WATERTOWN, S.D. – Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard hosted a “Bring a Buddy to Drill” day for the residents of surrounding area communities at the Watertown Readiness Center, June 6.

The Soldiers of Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, 147th Forward Support Company, and 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery all train at the Watertown Readiness Center and worked together to provide a day full of activities for the attending community members.

“This experience provided the community members with an opportunity to visit with Soldiers and get some experience with the equipment that is used in the different job positions we have in the Watertown units,” said Sgt. First Class Chad Brandsrud, readiness noncommissioned officer for Company A, 139th BSB. “This also allowed them to witness what a typical drill is like in the National Guard.”

Community members that attended the event were able to experience military-style training on the EST 2000, an interactive simulator the Army uses to train Soldiers on virtually all aspects of firearms - from calibrating weapons to weapons qualification and collective fire scenarios in changing environments.

Each Soldier’s “Buddy” also got an introduction to various military weapons, had a chance to drive M1120A4 Load Handling System and track vehicles, ride in a Humvee and even operate some of the unit’s specialized equipment.

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150606-Z-ZZ999-001: Community members ready themselves to identify and engage targets on the EST 2000 simulator, as unit Soldiers stand by to assist during the “Bring a Buddy to Drill” day hosted by the South Dakota Army National Guard at the Watertown Readiness Center, June 6, 2015. Pictured from left to right are Sam Furman, Adam Barse, Sgt. First Class Eric Lewis, Chris Wollan, Spc. James Schultz, Sgt. Steve Biteler, Pfc. Luke Simons, Hunter Backhaus and Carter Kindle. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Jen Smith/Released)



150606-Z-ZZ999-002: U.S. Army Spc. Alexandra Lovett assists Hunter Backhaus in handling the M1120A4 Load Handling System while Spc. Joshua Hartley guides their operations from the ground during the South Dakota Army National Guard's "Bring a Buddy to Drill" day at the Watertown Readiness Center, June 6, 2015. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Jen Smith)



150606-Z-ZZ999-003: U.S. Army Spc. Alexandra Lovett, of Luverne, Minn., introduces Samantha Negaard, of Great Bend, Kan., to the M1120A4 Load Handling System during the South Dakota Army National Guard's "Bring a Buddy to Drill" day hosted at the Watertown Readiness Center, June 6, 2015. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Jen Smith)

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